

Understanding Your Grandparent DNA Test Results

A simple guide to the numbers you will see on your report

Prepared for informational purposes only
This guide explains the main numbers and what they typically mean.
It is not a substitute for professional genetic counseling.

1. The Two Key Numbers on Your Report

A. Grandparentage Index (or Combined Kinship Index / Grandparent DNA Index)

This number (also called a likelihood ratio) shows how much more likely it is that the tested grandparent(s) and child are biologically related compared to being unrelated.

Typical interpretation:

- **> 1.0** → The DNA evidence **supports** a grandparent-grandchild relationship
- **10 or higher** → Strong support for the relationship
- **50+** → Very strong support for the relationship
- **< 0.1** → Strong evidence **against** a grandparent-grandchild relationship
- **Around 1** → Inconclusive (data neither strongly supports nor rejects)

The higher the index above 1.0, the stronger the evidence of a biological connection.
(Note: This index is often lower than in direct parent-child tests because grandparents share only about 25% of DNA with grandchildren.)

B. Probability Percentage

This is the final number most people look at first. It estimates the chance (0–100%) that the tested individuals are grandparent and grandchild.

Common ranges and meanings:

- **> 90%** → Strong support for a grandparent-grandchild relationship (often considered positive/conclusive)
- **10% – 90%** → Inconclusive – result does not clearly confirm or exclude
- **< 10%** → Strong evidence **not** a grandparent-grandchild relationship (often considered negative/conclusive)
- **< 1%** → Extremely strong evidence **not** related

Higher probabilities are more likely when the child's mother is included (to isolate paternal DNA) or both grandparents are tested.

2. Quick Reference Table

Grandparentage Index	Approximate Probability	Most Likely Interpretation
Very high (50+)	> 90%	Strong support for grandparent-grandchild relationship
High (10 – 50)	80 – 90%	Good support for the relationship
Moderate (1 – 10)	50 – 80%	Supports relationship (but not definitive)
~1	~50%	Completely inconclusive
Very low (< 0.1)	< 10%	Strong evidence against grandparent-grandchild relationship

Note: Results are often less conclusive than direct parent-child tests. Half-grandparent relationships (e.g., one side only) or testing only one grandparent can produce lower indices/probabilities even if related.

3. Important Things to Know

- These are **statistical probabilities**, not absolute yes/no answers. Rare genetic variations can influence outcomes.
- Including the child's biological mother makes results **much clearer** by eliminating her DNA contribution and focusing on the paternal side.
- Testing **both grandparents** (instead of one) reconstructs more of the missing parent's profile and greatly improves accuracy.
- If the result is inconclusive (roughly 10%–90%), the most common next step is additional testing (more markers, include the mother, test both grandparents, or add other relatives).
- Grandparent tests are indirect — they confirm a relationship through shared genetic patterns across generations.
- This test is for personal knowledge only. It is not intended for legal, court, immigration, or child-support purposes unless chain-of-custody procedures were followed.

We hope this guide helps you understand your report more easily.

Last updated: January 2026